

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Warren Street Structure Fire

Contact: Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer

Phone: 843-958-6401

E-mail: kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov

Charleston, SC (June 4, 2014): At 6:04 AM today, Units with the City of Charleston Fire Department, St. Andrews Fire Department, Charleston Police Department, and Charleston County EMS were dispatched to a reported structure fire on Warren Street located on the peninsula of Charleston. The first fire department units arrived on scene within 2 minutes of the initial dispatch and reported a fully involved carriage house in the rear of an attached two-story structure.

Arriving fire department personnel commenced a coordinated fire attack and entered from the front of the main uninvolved structure to prevent the fire from spreading to the main house. While personnel made an initial attack on the fire, additional crews protected nearby exposures that were threatened by the fire. Fire personnel controlled the bulk of the fire by 6:20 AM. Fire crews proceed to overhaul and extinguish remaining hot spots in the structure. One occupant, sleeping in the main house, was alerted by smoke alarms and was able to exit safely. The carriage house sustained heavy fire damage throughout the structure. Firefighters were able to prevent the fire from spreading to the main part of the house. The main part of the house received some minor smoke and water damage.

Members of the Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire. Citizens reported smelling and seeing smoke in the area of the carriage house the previous evening but failed to report their observations to 9-1-1. The carriage house was vacant at the time of the fire and a renovation project was nearing completion. The fire was determined to have originated near the entrance to the carriage house. The exact cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The City of Charleston Fire Department would like to remind citizens of these important tips:

- Report any unusual odors or visual smoke by calling 9-1-1. The 911 center will dispatch emergency responders to investigate the situation.
- Maintain working smoke alarms in your home. Every level of your residence should have a working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms should be tested monthly and batteries should be changed annually.
- Never ignore a smoke alarm – when in doubt – call 9-1-1.
- Prepare for an emergency by making an escape plan with you and your household. Know two ways out of every room.

#